

discovered some fifty years ago it seems to be rare and but little appears to have been recorded of its habits.

Our specimen, an adult female, was captured in its nest in a hollow bough in the same jungle as *Draco maximus*. The nest was merely a tunnel about three inches in diameter and eighteen in length, roughly lined with fibrous materi and with green leaves. The general colour of the animal is a pale greyish brown above, somewhat yellowish beneath with an ill-defined dark stripe running from the muzzle to a little beyond the eye. The tail is naked for two-thirds of its length and covered with scutes like that of a rat; the terminal third is clothed with whitish hair over half an inch in length, whence the trivial name of the species is derived.

Dimensions :—Head and body, 133 ; tail, 167 ; ear 19 ; hind-foot, 34 mm. Examination of a series will not improbably prove that the Peninsular form is separable from the Bornean race, but distinctions based on an unique specimen are apt to be fallacious.

H. C. Robinson.

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Occasional Notes.

Pratincola manra (Pall.)

A specimen of the Indian Bush-chat was shot by Captain H. R. Baker at Stagmount, Singapore on Dec. 22, 1904. Hitherto it has been collected as far down as Mysore and the Andamans but Singapore must now be recorded as its most southerly extension. As the species is now included in the avifanna of the Malay Peninsula I give below a description of the plumage in which it was obtained locally.

Male. Forehead, crown, nape, hind neck, back, scapulars, most of the wing-coverts, and upper rump black,

broadly margined with fulvous, the black predominating on the forehead and crown and the fulvous on the nape; the innermost wing-coverts pure white; primary wings coverts and winglet black edged with whitish; quills rusty black, the primaries narrowly, the other quill-broadly edged with pale rufous on the outer edge and tip; lower rump and tail-coverts white broadly tipped with orange-rufous; tail black, edged and tipped with pale rufous, broadest on the outer feathers; lores, sides of the head, chin and throat black, the feathers of the chin and throat strongly tipped with fulvous-white and a curved line of the same colour running from the nostrils over the eye; a patch of white feathers tipped with orange-rufous on each side of the neck; breast orange-rufous; remainder of the lower plumage pale rufous, palest on the centre of the abdomen and lower tail coverts; under wing-coverts and axillaries black with narrow white tips; inner edge of the wing quills whitish.

It is dark brown; bill and feet black (*Capt. H. R. Baker*). Length 130 millimetres; tail 53; wing 68; tarsus 20; bill from gape 16.

C. Boden Kloss.

Nesting of the Little Grey Woodpecker.

The little grey woodpecker *Jungipicus canicapillus* is a very common bird in Singapore and may often be seen running about dead boughs in search of insects. The nest and eggs of it have however never been described. Captain H. R. Baker however espied one evidently nesting, in the dead bough of a tree (*Vernonia arborea*) in the Botanic Gardens at a height of about 15 feet from the ground. He first noticed it making the hole in the first week of March, and on the 24th he and I went to the tree and cut it across to get the eggs which were by them unfortunately almost ready to hatch. The eggs 2 in number were deposited at the bottom of the hole. Without any lining or attempt at a nest. They were rounded, but pointed at the small end and measured .67 by .54 and .65 by .54 respectively.

Jour. Straits Branch